

## **Avista Transmission Line Rebuild Project**

### **November 30, 2020**

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest invites your input on a proposal to replace structures and conductors along approximately 4.5 miles of an existing transmission line located within Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

#### **Location**

The Avista Transmission Line Rebuild Project is located in the Hells National Recreation Area. Approximately 39 miles northeast of Joseph, Oregon (See map 1).

#### **Purpose and Need**

Avista Corp is currently authorized to operate and maintain a power transmission line under the terms and conditions of a special use permit issued by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The transmission line, initially constructed with cedar and larch poles and cross-arms, has required several minor rebuilds. The wooden structures are highly susceptible to damage from wildfire. Avista has evaluated the transmission line's structural integrity and proposes to replace all structures along the transmission line with self-weathering steel poles. The proposal includes replacement of associated guy wires and anchors, as well as the steel shield wire conductor.

#### **Proposed Action**

Avista proposes to replace all 27 structures in the project area. Work pads around each structure would be enlarged or relocated to accommodate new structure locations within the existing 100 foot right of way. The size of the work pads would be a 50-foot radius from each structure.

Depending on soil conditions, guy wires would be connected to either a rock anchor or plate anchor. A rock anchor consists of a one-inch diameter rod grouted into a hole drilled in solid rock. A plate anchor would be installed in trench 4 feet wide and 15 feet deep. A total of 52 anchors would be required.

Four temporary stringing and tensioning sites would be constructed. These sites are located 100-200 feet from select structures and are slightly outside of the right of way.

A helicopter would be utilized to pull shield wires and conductors in place.

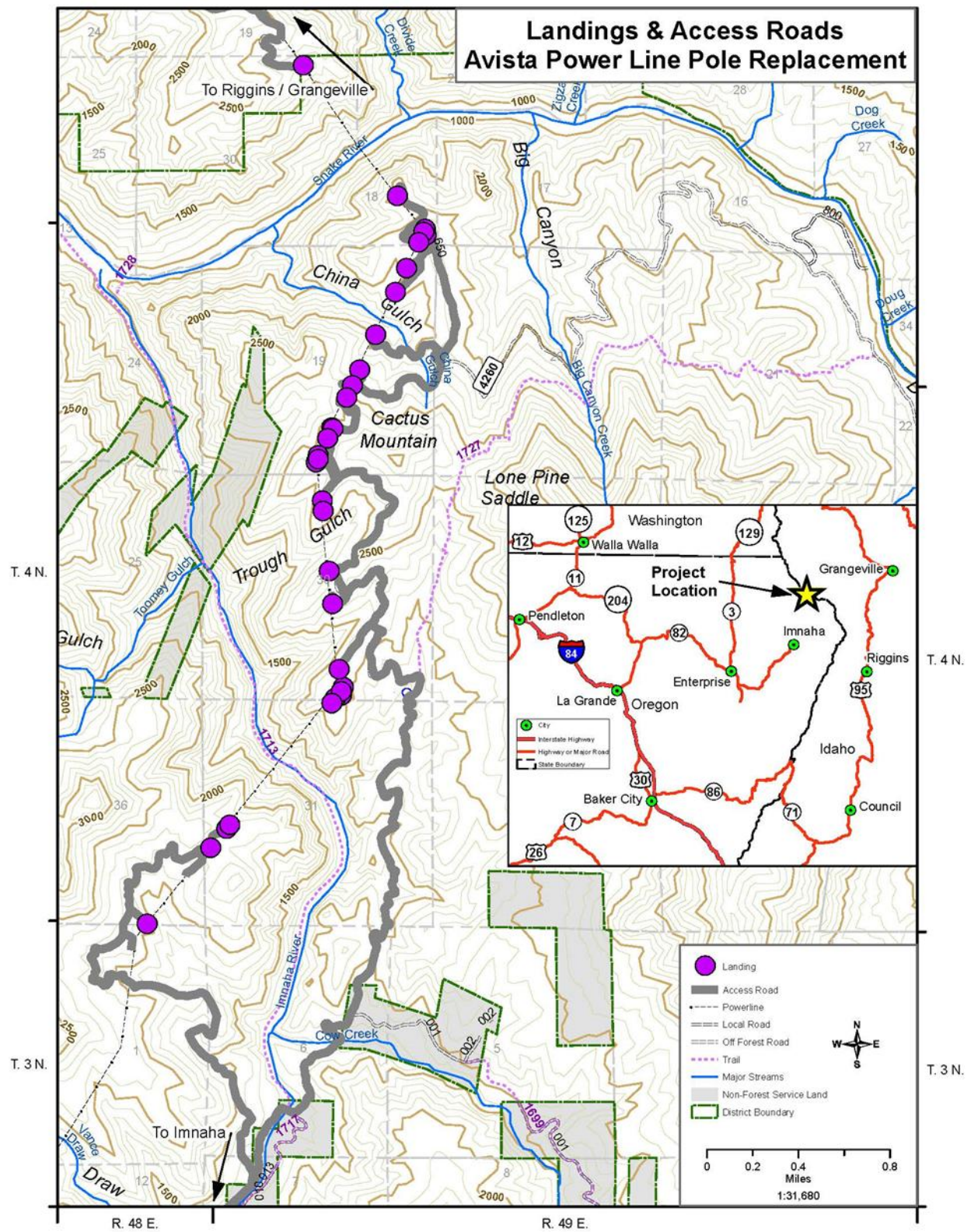
The proposal includes minor maintenance to access and service roads to each structure. One new service road would be built to reach the structure on the Snake River's south bank.

All disturbed areas would be reseeded to prevent noxious weeds and soil erosion as required by the special use permit and operation and maintenance plan.

Please submit electronic comments on the project webpage: by selecting the "Comment on Project" link in the "Get Connected" group at the right-hand side of the project webpage;  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59043>.

Alternatively, please share your input regarding this proposal by contacting Andrea Holmquist at 541-426-5533, [andrea.holmquist@usda.gov](mailto:andrea.holmquist@usda.gov), and P.O. Box 905, Joseph, OR 97846. If you would like any additional information about the project, please contact Mark Bingman, Project Team Leader, at

mark.bingman@usda.gov, and Wallowa Mountains Office, P.O. Box 905, Joseph, OR 97846. Please provide input by 12-18-2020. Thank you for your interest in this project.



Map 1